an IP stub for translating communications from said hardware interface and said

simulator system.

5.   The hardware simulation system according to claim 1 wherein the

hardware includes peripheral portions and said hardware interface further comprises a

communications controller for communicating with said peripheral portions.

6.   A method for simulating hardware on which software is to be tested

comprising:

providing a simulated network;

defining functionality of said simulated network;

intercepting and redirecting communications between the software and the

hardware and returning responses to the hardware and software;

simulating hardware,

simulating functionality of said simulated network, and

generating responses to the software from the hardware.

7.   A method for simulating hardware according to claim 6 further

comprising:

maintaining a topology of the simulated network, wherein said topology includes

a plurality of nodes and links,

directing communications among said nodes in said topology, and

maintaining an operational state of the nodes and links.